

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A body frame of a vehicle, comprising:
a frame member, having opposite faces which face each other, provided in one of a front portion and a rear portion of the vehicle; and
a load imposing device, provided at an end of the frame member, for imposing a load on the opposite faces of the frame member toward at least two opposite directions which are substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the frame member, when impact on the frame member in the longitudinal direction of the frame member is anticipated or imposed.
2. (Currently Amended) The A body frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load imposing device has a member made of a shape memory alloy.
3. (Currently Amended) The A body frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load imposing device has a spring.
4. (Currently Amended) The A body frame as claimed in claim 3, wherein the spring is one of a coil spring and a plate spring.
5. (Currently Amended) The A body frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load imposing device has a band-shaped member made of a shape memory alloy, which is wound along ~~one of an outer-peripheral wall and an inner-peripheral wall~~ of the frame member.
6. (New) The body frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frame member is a side frame member.
7. (New) The body frame as claimed in claim 3, wherein the spring is provided between the opposite faces of the frame member.